

On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

Let's Chat Live!

Arlington Officers Answer Your Public Safety Questions

Patrol Officer Johnitta Williams enjoys interacting with the public and being helpful when they have questions. With the new Live Chat system, she can now connect with more people even when she's not on patrol.



Arlington has become the first law enforcement agency in Texas to provide real-time communication services to its customers through an online chat system.

When Arlington officers log on to Live Chat system from the front desk computer inside a Police Station, they are instantly connected with people looking for answers.



Chat questions are varied. People seek parking information about special events in the city.

Some ask general law enforcement and traffic enforcement related questions.

During a Live Chat session, a citizen sent a message to officers after recognizing a suspect from the APD Top 10 Most Wanted List.

Front desk officers say many of the same questions being asked of them on the streets and on the telephone are now coming through the Live Chat system.

Those waiting in line to speak with an officer at the front desk are learning about a faster, more convenient way to connect.

"I enjoy interacting with citizens and hearing what they have to say," Officer Williams said. "I like being in a position to help."

Live Chat was installed in Dec. 2011 and includes more than 67 trained officers from all four police service stations in Arlington.

... In the Community

Congratulations! Will Johnson has been appointed Arlington Chief of Police. Join us for his swearing-in ceremony at 4 p.m. Monday, March 18 at the Arlington Convention Center.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10. Slow down. Watch for more pedestrians outside enjoying the extra daylight.

Sutter Creek Community Watch Group will meet **March 14.**

The Citizens Police Academy General Meeting is **March 14** at the West Police Service Center.

Congratulations! Spanish Oaks Apartments will host its first Community Watch Meeting on **March 26.**

Good Friday is March 29. Easter is March 31.

The City of Arlington is now accepting applications for 9-1-1 Telecommunicators. Starting pay is \$15.88 per hour. Apply at www.ArlingtonTX.gov by **March 31.**



Corporal Rodney Rundles and Deputy Chief Jeff Matthews (center) fulfill some important public safety duties as judges at the Waterwood Estates Community Watch Chili Cook Off on Feb. 23. Also assisting Code Officer Kirk Coppedge.

When You Have a Public Safety Question:

1. Log on to www.ArlingtonPD.org
2. Click the Live Chat icon
3. Submit.

Are You Watching?



Public Safety News, Unit Profiles, Good Police Work and More!

Time Warner Cable 95
YouTube.com/ArlingtonPoliceMedia

www.ArlingtonPD.org

On Call in the North District

Internet Radio Show Engages Arlington Area Youth in Positive Dialogue



Teens on the air with worldwide radio show.

Teens from around the city are doing some great things in our communities. In the North Police District, you'll find some of them in the studio producing a worldwide internet radio show they call "In Session."

This program is helping young people find solutions to everyday problems and situations. "In Session" started in Jan. 2012 with only two teen hosts and has now grown to include eight hosts.

The program was started by Jessica Whitaker who had a vision to help teenagers succeed.

At a recent recording, Assistant Chief James Hawthorne joined hosts in the studio for a one-on-one interview.

He spoke with the teen hosts about why he chose the law enforcement profession and how they can start now to plan a career with the Arlington Police Department.



Assistant Chief James Hawthorne on the mic with teens.

Watch "In Session"
1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at
www.fishbowlRadioNetwork.com.

Each month in On Call, watch for more public safety highlights from the North District Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell. Contact her at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.



On Call in the South District

Education Coalition Provides Life Skills for Youth & Families

The Arlington community came together on Saturday, Feb. 23, to focus on student success during an event held at Bowie High School.

The Leaders Inspiring Families for Excellence Academy or L.I.F.E. Academy is sponsored annually by the Arlington Coalition for Education. ACE is comprised of organizations from within the Arlington community who have joined forces to help improve the academic performance of students.

Coalition members include Arlington ISD, Altrusa International, the national sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and a roster of active and engaged fraternities and sororities from within the Arlington community.

Their goal is simple: To empower parents, educators, and the community to get involved in providing students what they need for success in school and life.

The LIFE Academy was a great day filled with free activities, including Parent Power workshops designed to emphasize the importance of parental involvement in education. There were career building workshops for junior high and high school students along with group discussions and presentations that helped to inspire and shape educational and life journeys.

A special thanks to those who organized this successful event and to all the parents and youth who participated. Together, Arlington is planting seeds for a safe and secure future for our youth.



New crime prevention highlights every month from the South District Crime Prevention Officer Jakisha Jones. Contact her at 817-459-6468 or Jakisha.Jones@Arlingtontx.gov for more information.

On Call in the East District

Citizens Don't Fall for Scam – Gather Information That Leads to Arrest

Thanks to the dedication and training of citizen volunteers from the East Police District, a man who had been victimizing elderly residents has been arrested and removed from neighborhood streets.

The Knottingham Estates Community Watch and Citizens On Patrol Mobile are always available and willing to assist whenever they're needed. They recently helped APD solve a crime.

Officers had taken several 9-1-1 calls about a man flagging down motorists and scamming them out of money to fix a defective tire. At that time, we had very limited information about the suspect. There was no license plate information, only a vague description of the man.

Then, one day, a man believed to be the suspect from previous offense reports stopped two members of the Knottingham Estates Community Watch Group. When these citizens did not fall for the scam, the man fled the scene.

These trained volunteers knew exactly what to do and took immediate action. They noted the suspicious activity, wrote down the license plate information and provided it to officers.

Armed with valuable information, an East Patrol Officer made a traffic stop that resulted in an arrest of the man suspected of scamming elderly people out of their money. This male suspect also had several outstanding traffic warrants.

A special thanks to those who remain committed to a safer East Arlington through their participation in our Citizens on Patrol and Community Watch programs. Because of your efforts, the East District is able to "connect the dots" and stop people from victimizing neighbors.



Every month, watch for a new Crime Prevention highlight from the East District Crime Prevention Officer Faviola Delgado. Contact her at 817-459-5817 or Faviola.Delgado@ArlingtonTx.gov.

On Call in the West District

Great Teamwork Solves Home Burglaries in this West District Neighborhood

A neighborhood in west Arlington was seeing an increase in home burglaries. Last summer, they formed a Community Watch Group.

One night, a homeowner captured video of a burglar outside of his home and provided it to a detective.

A short time later, two neighbors saw what they believed was a suspicious vehicle in their neighborhood. They immediately called 9-1-1 and provided a license plate number.

Armed with the license plate information, the Arlington Tactical Intelligence Unit was contacted.

They uncovered information that showed the vehicle to be parked at a nearby apartment complex in Fort Worth.

During a search, officers were not able to locate the vehicle, but they were able to gather some important information from employees of the property that led them to an apartment.

Upon making contact with individuals inside the apartment, more information was gathered that allowed warrants to be issued for two suspects believed to be involved in several home burglaries. Officers were able to recover stolen property and they returned it to the owners.



This is another great example of how neighbors, patrol officers and detectives all worked together to improve safety and get home burglars identified and off the streets of this west Arlington neighborhood.



New crime prevention highlights each month from the West District Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty. Contact him at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov.

Congratulations! Four Arlington Officers Earn Promotions

The Arlington Police Department is proud to announce four promotions. During the February 15 promotional ceremony at Cowboys Stadium, many were present to celebrate their accomplishment as family members stepped forward to pin new badges.



(Left to Right) Cable Johnson, Jason Rash, Ray Mullikin and Jakisha Jones

Cable Johnson promoted to Lieutenant and Jason Rash, Ray Mullikin and Jakisha Jones were all promoted to Sergeant.

"These officers have reached a major milestone in their careers," said Police Chief Will Johnson. "We congratulate each one of them on their accomplishment and we look forward to their continued success with the Arlington Police Department."



At Night Time, Can You See Us?

New Technology Could Enhance Safety for Officers at Crash Scenes

The Arlington Police Department is testing some new technology on highways and neighborhood streets. The goal is to improve safety at accident scenes at night.

This month, the department began using Power Flare Safety Lights in the north district at traffic crash scenes. Following a testing and evaluation period, motorists could begin seeing these flares used citywide.

Officials say the new Power Flares could eventually replace the 20-minute burning flares currently being used. These incendiary flares require officers to continually light them at long-duration crash scenes thereby exposing them to unsafe traffic conditions at night. During rainy weather, they can burn out. The new flares are battery operated and more environmentally friendly, police officials say.

"After nightfall, officers can find

themselves in unsafe situations when trying to manage traffic around an accident scene," said Police Service Assistant Matt Riddle.

"These safety lights have many benefits

many benefits. They're built to be more durable and we're excited about putting them to the test."



Annual Charitable Hockey Event Raises Thousands for Paine Family



Thank you! The 10th Annual Guns 'N Hoses Charitable Hockey Game on Feb. 9 raised nearly \$15,000 for Arlington firefighter Adam Paine and his family's battle with ovarian cancer.

This annual competition between the Police and Fire departments was played out at the Dr. Pepper StarCenter. Because of the generous support of so many employees, sponsors and donors, the amount raised this year far exceeded fundraising expectations said, lead organizer Firefighter Jason Arias.



On Call

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Send story ideas and comments to: Editor Cheryl Carpenter

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www.ArlingtonPD.org

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